



# Delaware

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report

DE-CW0206

APRIL 10, 2006

### Saturday Rains Eased Soil Moisture Concerns Slightly

While conditions remain very dry, rain on Saturday, up to 1.50 inches in some places, eased producer concerns about planting and germination conditions. Rainfall totals for the year are still several inches behind normal. Dry soils were causing small grain development to lag behind normal, but Saturday's rain helped spur growth. As of April 9 topsoil moisture was 19 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 43 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture improved slightly to 43 percent adequate from 35 percent adequate last week. There were **6 days** suitable for fieldwork.

Small grain growth got a much needed boost on Saturday from the rain, but 21 percent of the **barley** was still rated very poor or poor. Only 10 percent was rated in excellent condition. **Winter wheat** condition was similar with 19 percent poor or very poor and 10 percent excellent. Fruit progress is ahead of average. **Apples** are 21 percent bloomed, compared to 4 percent last year and 7 percent average. **Peaches** are 45 percent bloomed compared to 14 percent last year and 25 percent average. **Strawberries** are 21 percent bloomed compared to 3 percent last year and 6 percent average. Planting progress for potatoes and green peas are significantly ahead of normal.

**Pasture condition** improved with the rains as well and was reported as 13 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. **Hay** supplies are 51 percent adequate, 32 percent short, and 17 percent very short.

### DELAWARE'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2006 (PERCENT)

| Item                         | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average 2001-2005 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>Planting Progress:</b>    |           |           |           |                   |
| <b>Green Peas</b>            | 66        | 35        | 21        | 32                |
| <b>Potatoes</b>              | 58        | 40        | 11        | 21                |
| <b>Fruit Crops Blooming:</b> |           |           |           |                   |
| <b>Apples</b>                | 21        | 16        | 4         | 7                 |
| <b>Peaches</b>               | 45        | 30        | 14        | 25                |
| <b>Strawberries</b>          | 21        | 5         | 3         | 6                 |

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2006 (PERCENT)

| Condition                | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| <b>Topsoil Moisture</b>  | 19         | 38    | 43       | -       |
| <b>Topsoil (2005)</b>    | -          | -     | 28       | 72      |
| <b>Five Year Average</b> | 1          | 5     | 50       | 45      |
| <b>Subsoil Moisture</b>  | 25         | 32    | 43       | -       |
| <b>Subsoil (2005)</b>    | -          | 1     | 87       | 13      |
| <b>Five Year Average</b> | 9          | 7     | 58       | 26      |

Beverly Clark  
Agricultural Statistician

Chris Cadwallader  
Director

Delaware Extension System, Delaware Farm Services Agency, Delaware Department of Agriculture, USDA/NASS/  
Delaware Agricultural Statistics cooperating.

For more information call: Delaware Agricultural Statistics , 2320 South DuPont Hwy., Dover DE 19901, 302-  
698-4537 or 800-282-8685

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2006

|                                  | Precipitation         |                         |   | Temperatures |     |         |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|-----|---------|-----------------------------|
| Weather Station                  | Total<br>this<br>week | Total<br>Since<br>Jan 1 | Departure<br>from Normal<br>Since Jan 1 | High         | Low | Average | Departure<br>from<br>Normal |
| Maryland                         |                       |                         |   |              |     |         |                             |
| Baltimore/Washington Airport     | 1.56                  | 7.88                    | -2.57                                   | 77           | 35  | 54      | 4                           |
| Easton                           | 1.15                  | 7.69                    | -1.64                                   | 74           | 30  | 51      | 6                           |
| Frederick                        | 0.85                  | 8.31                    | -3.16                                   | 72           | 25  | 44      | -1                          |
| Frostburg                        | 1.18                  | 5.29                    | -3.85                                   | 73           | 29  | 51      | 3                           |
| Hagerstown                       | 1.26                  | 5.87                    | -5.98                                   | 82           | 32  | 55      | 4                           |
| Mechanicsville                   | 0.91                  | 5.02                    | -5.42                                   | 81           | 39  | 56      | 4                           |
| Patuxent River                   | 0.19                  | 5.09                    | -7.66                                   | 69           | 35  | 53      | 3                           |
| Ocean City                       | 0.44                  | 5.40                    | -6.88                                   | 79           | 31  | 53      | 3                           |
| Salisbury                        | 1.12                  | 6.76                    | -2.57                                   | 77           | 26  | 52      | 7                           |
| Sharpsburg                       | 1.00                  | 6.57                    | -4.10                                   | 75           | 33  | 53      | 3                           |
| Washington, DC (Reagan National) | 1.25                  | 7.02                    | -2.39                                   | 80           | 34  | 56      | 3                           |
| Delaware                         |                       |                         |   |              |     |         |                             |
| Dover                            | 1.01                  | 6.65                    | -4.28                                   | 75           | 36  | 53      | 2                           |
| Georgetown                       | 0.30                  | 4.98                    | -6.91                                   | 80           | 38  | 55      | 6                           |
| Wilmington                       | 1.50                  | 7.67                    | -2.69                                   | 69           | 33  | 51      | 3                           |

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.